

DISTRICT BULLETIN



A World-Class Community of Learners



FRIDLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Making It Count

Fridley High School Math Team
excels throughout their season

see page 5

INSIDE:

- + FRIDLEY SCHOOL BOARD BIDS FAREWELL TO LONGTERM MEMBER, WELCOMES NEW MEMBER
- + NEWS ON STUDENTS, STAFF, & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

WINTER/
SPRING
2019



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Fridley School Board welcomes new member

Abdisalam Adam joined the Fridley School Board in January 2019

PAGE 4

Student Spotlight:

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM earns Tri-Metro Conference title

PAGE 4

ON THE COVER:

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEAM excels throughout the season

PAGE 5



OUR STUDENTS PAGE 6



OUR STAFF PAGE 13



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PAGE 14

The Fridley Public Schools District Bulletin is published three times a year and is mailed to every home in the Fridley School District. Past issues are available online at www.fridley.k12.mn.us

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Communications and Community Relations Office:

Director of Communications and
Community Engagement Jael McLemore
Communications Specialist David Webber
Communications Specialist Sarah Burghardt

Email: communications@fridley.k12.mn.us



A World-Class Community of Learners

FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

International Baccalaureate World Schools

DISTRICT BULLETIN WINTER/SPRING 2019

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kim Hiel

SCHOOL BOARD

Chris Riddle - Chair
Mary Kay Delvo - Vice Chair
Donna Prewedo - Treasurer
Avonna Starck - Clerk
Carol Thornton - Director
Abdisalam Adam - Director

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Fridley High School
Principal: Patty Hand
Assistant Principal: Kelly McConville

Fridley Area Learning Center
Principal: Dr. Jason Bodey

Fridley Middle School
Principal: Amy Cochran
Assistant Principal:
Dr. Danielle Peterson

Hayes Elementary School
Principal: John Piotraschke

R. L. Stevenson Elementary School
Principal: Daryl Vossler

DISTRICT OFFICES

Activities: 763-502-5606
Buildings/Grounds: 763-502-5008
Business & Finance: 763-502-5004
Communications: 763-502-5020
Community Education: 763-502-5100
Educational Services: 763-502-5009
Equity: 763-502-5006
Enrollment: 763-502-5081
Human Resources: 763-502-5013
Nutritional Services: 763-502-5021
Special Education: 763-502-5025
Technology: 763-502-5032
Transportation: 763-502-5026
IB (DP): 763-502-5062
IB (MYP): 763-502-5036
IB (PYP) Hayes: 763-502-5228
IB (PYP) Stevenson: 763-502-5317
IB (PYP) Preschool: 763-502-5117



Longtime **Fridley School Board** member **Kim Sampson** retires

Fridley Public Schools bid farewell to longtime Board member Kim Sampson who retired from her Board position effective December 31, 2018. Sampson was first elected to the Fridley School Board in 2000 and has served on the Board for 18 consecutive years.

A passionate supporter of community and education, Sampson has been involved in the school district since her children, daughter Andrea and son Kyle, were students at Hayes Elementary School. Both her children and her husband Dan, graduated from Fridley High School. As a member of Hayes PTO, she always sought ways that she could give back to the school and the community.

During her tenure on the Fridley School Board, Sampson served as director, treasurer, secretary, vice chair and chair of the Board. "I feel very privileged to have served the school district in this capacity," said Sampson, adding that she appreciates and values the people on the Board, their diversity, and the different opinions they bring to their Board work.

Sampson currently works as a business manager for software giant, Oracle. She announced her intent to retire at the end of 2018 at the November Board meeting, a decision she says was based on increased responsibilities at her job. Sampson noted that the district is in a good place and she felt that it was the right time for her to make this transition.

"I am proud of the work that our district, administrators, teachers and staff are doing to prepare students for college and careers."

Kim Sampson
18-year Fridley School Board member

at both Hayes and Stevenson elementary schools, the addition of the Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC), district-wide transition to International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools, implementation of All-Day Kindergarten and Voluntary Preschool (VPK), renewal of levies, district contract labor negotiations, and renewal of policies. Sampson also served as Board representative on the Wellness Committee, Finance and Facilities Committee, Curriculum Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Northwest Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD) Board, and North East Metro 916 Board.

Sampson said that her greatest joy is attending Fridley High School commencement ceremonies and witnessing students graduate from high school.

"I am proud of the work that our district, administrators, teachers and staff are doing to prepare students for college and careers," said Sampson, adding that the implementation of the district's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program greatly prepares stu-



Kim Sampson at her final Fridley School Board meeting on Dec. 15



"I am so excited about our new superintendent, Dr. Kim Hiel," said Sampson. "She has tremendous experience, energy and the expertise to propel the district into the future we envision," she said.

As a member and leader of the School Board, Sampson's tenure on the Board resulted in many achievements for the school district, including upgrades of aging facilities, expansions

dents by teaching learning skills they can apply and use for life.

Fridley Public Schools would like to thank Sampson for her dedication and commitment to the district. We wish you the best of luck on your next endeavors!

FRIDLEY SCHOOL BOARD



(Back row, l-r) Mary Kay Delvo, Chris Riddle, Carol Thornton. (Front row, l-r) Avonna Starck, Abdisalam Adam, Donna Prewedo.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:

Fridley School Board meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of each month, with a schedule as follows: 5:30 PM Work Session; 7:00 PM Public Forum; 7:30 PM Business Meeting

All school board meetings are held at the Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE, Fridley. All meetings are open to the public.

stay connected:



Did You Know that community members can sign up for our **bi-monthly e-newsletter?**

Visit www.fridley.k12.mn.us and navigate to the Be Informed tab and click on Publications. You will find a link to subscribe!



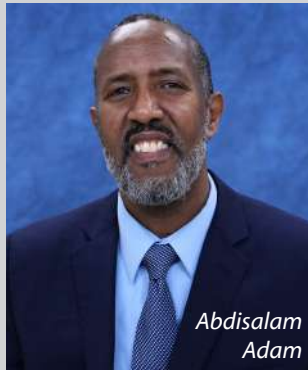
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Fridley School Board welcomes new member

ABDISALAM ADAM JOINED THE FRIDLEY SCHOOL BOARD IN JANUARY 2019

Fridley School Board member Abdisalam Adam was officially sworn into the Fridley School Board at the January 15, 2019 Board meeting. Mr. Adam will complete the remainder of former Board member Kim Sampson's term. Sampson resigned at the end of December due to work commitments.



Adam, whose son graduated from Fridley High School in 2014, has lived in the Fridley community for 18 years. He said that the school board vacancy appealed to him as it represented an opportunity to give back and strengthen his involvement in the community.

"It is an honor and privilege for me to be selected to serve on the Board of Fridley Public Schools and I am very grateful to the School Board members for giving me this opportunity," said Adam. He added that quality public education is the cornerstone of our representative democracy in producing responsible citizens. "As a member of the Fridley School Board, I will strive for equity in governance and work hard to ensure that the students of Fridley Public Schools receive a world-class education that meets the challenges of a global work place," said Adam.

With 23 years of experience in education, Adam currently serves as an assistant principal at Highland Park High School in the St. Paul Public Schools district. Adam has served on boards of various civic and educational organizations including the Al-Amal School Board, Neighborhood House, the Islamic Civic Society of America, and the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa. He has also participated in advisory committees for the Minnesota Department of Education on English Learners, Special Education, Bilingual Seal, and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Adam received his Bachelor of Education in Teaching English as a Second Language from King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He earned his Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from St. Cloud State University, and his K-12 principal license from Bethel University. He is currently a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) candidate at Bethel University.

Student Spotlight:



FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM earns Tri-Metro Conference title

BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

For the third year in a row, the Fridley High School (FHS) Speech Team earned the first place in the Tri-Metro Conference Speech Tournament held February 28, 2019 at DeLaSalle High School. The Tri-Metro Conference tournament included speech teams from Academy of Holy Angels, DeLaSalle High School, St. Croix Lutheran, and St. Anthony Village High School.

Multiple FHS students earned first place in their categories, including: junior Daniel Toweh in Discussion, senior Nadia Hawkins in Great Speeches, senior Elisa Strecker in Humorous Interpretation, and senior Gao-je Vang in Informative Speaking.

Students who placed second in their categories included: freshmen Devika Ramnarine and Priya Rana in Duo Interpretation, junior McKenzie Swartz in Extemporaneous Reading, and freshman Savanna Ayers in Humorous Interpretation.

The third place finishers included: sophomores Melanny Quiacain-Ovalle and Kahna Puy in Duo Interpretation, freshman Ryken Farr in Great Speeches, junior BaoBai Xiong in Poetry, and sophomore Aidan Salo in Storytelling.

Fourth place finishers included: freshman Emily Hill in Dramatic Interpretation, junior Yangchen Namgyal in Extemporaneous Speaking, junior Zoha Hassan in Original Oratory, sophomore Cassidy Callahan in Poetry and freshman Eddie Nordin in Storytelling, and Fridley Middle School (FMS) 8th grade student Nick Richard and FMS 7th grade student Anna Nordin in Duo Interpretation.

Students who also placed in their categories and earn points toward Fridley's winning score included: junior Ruby Richard, Creative Expression (5th place), sophomore Erik Hill, Creative Expression (6th place), sophomore George Ombuya, Creative Expression (7th place); senior Walter Nordin, Discussion (5th place), freshman Andy Stevenson, Discussion (6th place), freshman Andy Hill, Great Speeches (5th place), and freshman Helen Riddle, Prose Reading (5th place).



Prior to math competitions, the Fridley High School Math Team take practice tests together to prepare.



Back row, (l to r): Joe Blegen, Andrew Ramirez, Akshay Rai, Tenzin Nyingpo, Nathan Ramirez. Front row, (l to r): Salmah Youngmark, Olivia Yang, and Yangchen Namgyal

"It is [our team's] work ethic beyond anything that impresses me. If something is difficult, they do not just stop and give up, they push forward, problem solve, and collaborate to help each other."

Michael Wilmes
FHS Math Teacher and
Math Team Coach



Student Spotlight:

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEAM

excels throughout the season

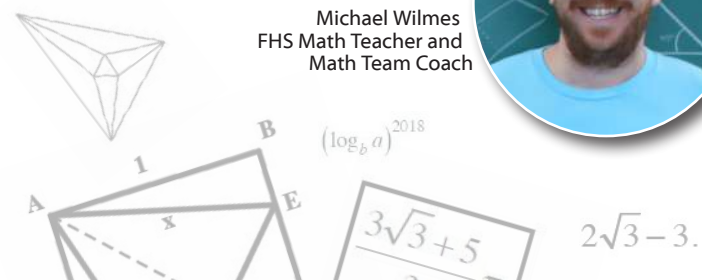
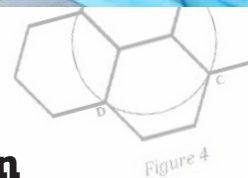
Congratulations to the Fridley High School Math Team who ended their season on a strong note by taking 1st place in meet 5 at Orono High School on February 11, 2019. FHS senior Nathan Ramirez also earned his spot in the state competition. Ramirez was the top scorer in the entire division and scored 50 percent more points than the first runner-up.

FHS students who also scored in the top 10 included: Andy Ramirez (Gr. 9), Joe Blegen (Gr. 12), and Akshay Rai (Gr. 9).

In the Metro Alliance Division, FHS placed second, finishing just behind St. Anthony High School by only two points. FHS finished with 199 total points to St. Anthony's 201. The Metro Alliance division includes Fridley High School, St. Anthony Village, Mound Westonka High School, Orono High School, Benilde-St. Margaret's High School, Providence Academy, and Columbia Heights High School.

Math Team Coach Michael Wilmes is proud of the entire math team who have worked hard and excelled all season.

"This is the culmination of four years of hard work for most of our team since we are primarily made up of seniors," said Wilmes. "Many of these students have worked throughout the summers and during the school year to try a lot of different mathematics. It is their work ethic beyond anything that impresses me. If something is difficult, they do not just stop and give up, they push forward, problem solve, and collaborate to help each other."



OUR STUDENTS

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENT

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXTENDED ESSAYS

Fridley High School, an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, hosted its ninth annual Silver Platter Breakfast Celebration on December 20, 2018. During the event, students who are enrolled in the full IB Diploma Programme (DP) presented their Extended Essay, a culminating research project for those pursuing the IB Diploma. This year, the celebration recognized 15 seniors who submitted their essays.



The 2018-19 IB Diploma Programme Candidates are: (front row, from l to r): Zeinab Mohamed, Jesus Analco-Morales, Jasmine Crohn, Nadia Hawkins, Stefany Martinez-Perez, Gao-je Vang, Lucy Kuempel, Audrey Zeleny. (back row, from l to r): Walter Nordin, Nadira Hussein, Hailee Schalwig, Abdullahi Sheikdon, Tenzin Nyingpo, Samantha Dean. Not pictured: Malina Om

The Fridley High School seniors have the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma by completing DP core classes, assessments and exams during their junior and/or senior years of high school. A requirement of the IB Diploma, the Extended Essay is an in-depth study of a focused topic chosen within a subject group, that is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery, and creativity. This 4,000-word essay encourages students to develop college-level independent research skills.

The Silver Platter Breakfast Celebration is an opportunity for students enrolled in the full DP to be recognized by their teachers, peers, and parents for the high degree of academic rigor they have embarked on. The DP at Fridley High School is an intensive and challenging journey that greatly prepares the students enrolled for post-secondary success.

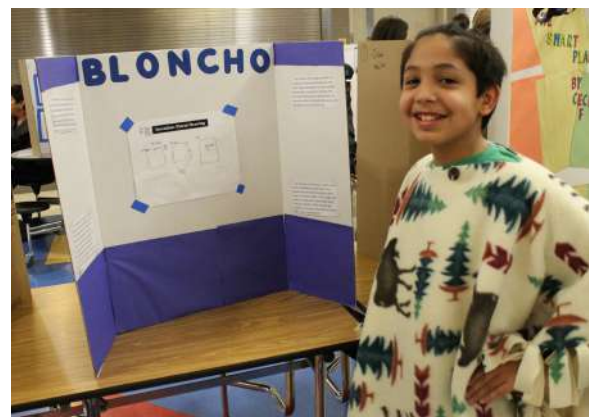
In addition to the presentation of the Extended Essays, three Class of 2018 Fridley High School graduates returned to receive their IB Diplomas. The following three students, who are now college freshmen, earned the IB Diploma: Nicolas Fite (*Georgia Institute of Technology*), Jennifer Ollila (*University of Minnesota - Duluth*), and Benjamin Stevenson (*University of Minnesota - Twin Cities*).

Fridley Middle School students participate in Inventors Fair

Over 200 Fridley Middle School 6th grade students demonstrated and presented their innovative ideas at the annual Inventors Fair on January 15, 2019. Through this interdisciplinary science class project, students aim to create an invention that could help improve or solve a pressing issue.



Fridley Middle School 6th grade student Kiara Wallace shows off her invention, a non-plugable lava lamp at the Inventors Fair.



Fridley Middle School 6th grade student Nathan Gonzalez and his invention, the "Bloncho," which is a combination of a blanket and a poncho.

The Inventors Fair project fits into the inquiry-led approach, which is at the center of

an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum framework. By working through this self-initiated and self-directed design process, students are able to further develop their skills and understanding of themselves as learners.



STEVENSON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

save and plant seeds for rain garden

On a mission to fight pollution, Stevenson kindergarten students kicked off a school-wide initiative as they 'saved seeds' on January 11, 2019. With the help of parent volunteers, the kindergarteners harvested seeds from prairie plants, which will later be transplanted into the rain and butterfly garden located in the center of the school's parking lot roundabout. This was the beginning of the Stevenson Seed Relay, which will involve all grade-levels throughout the spring.

On February 22, 2019, Stevenson 1st graders continued the relay by planting the prairie seeds. Students will monitor their growth indoors as they become seedlings. Come springtime, 2nd grade students will transplant the seedlings, setting the next steps for 3rd and 4th grade students, who will be planting more than 250 prairie plants into the butterfly and rain garden.

The school-wide initiative is a continuation of the Outdoor Learning on the Riverfront Grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The grant provided resources to create a rain and butterfly garden at the school in 2018, as well as fund a partnership with Heidi Ferris of Growing Green Hearts. Ferris is an environment STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education specialist who partners with schools and community groups to boost science literacy in programs and create on-site solutions for a number of today's environmental issues.



Fridley Middle School & Stevenson students pledge to

#SPEAKKINDNESS

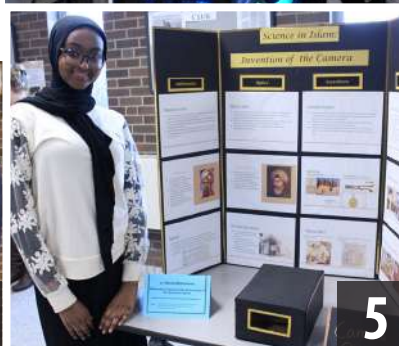


Recognizing a "person" first is always important, as someone should never be defined by a disability. On January 16, 2019, Fridley Middle School (FMS) and R.L. Stevenson Elementary School students and staff celebrated Person First Day as part of the #SpeakKindness campaign. Created by Special Olympics Minnesota, Person First Day recognizes and promotes person-first language. This means the "person" is always named first, which emphasizes the person as an individual, rather than defining them with their disability. On Person First Day, students at each school had the opportunity to add their fingerprint on a #SpeakKindness banner, symbolizing their commitment to always use person-first language, celebrate inclusion, and speak with kindness.

Both FMS and Stevenson have recently become Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. Unified Champion Schools implement three components, including Inclusive Youth Leadership, Unified Sports and Whole School Engagement, which are all areas that are crucial for a positive and inclusive school culture. At Stevenson, students have been and will be participating in multiple school engagement opportunities including: Unity Day (October 24), Person First Day (January 16), and Respect Day (March 6). Additionally, students at Stevenson take part in Unified Physical Education classes and Unified Club, both which foster inclusive and positive school environments.

At FMS, students have the opportunity to participate in a Unified WIN (What I Need) class. WIN is a dedicated intervention or enrichment time for 7th and 8th grade students and the Unified WIN class is held once a week. During this time, students play games and participate in guided conversations and activities that allow them to build meaningful friendships with one another.





FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENT

IB MYP PERSONAL PROJECTS

Over 200 Fridley High School 10th grade students presented their talents, interests and creative works at the 10th annual International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Personal Projects Celebration on January 16, 2019.

The Personal Project is the culminating project of a student's MYP experience. Since topics are nearly unlimited, the Personal Project is an opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and creative work of their choice, then showcase what they've learned to their classmates, parents, staff and community members. The completion and celebration of the project is a highlight for many Fridley students as they progress through the IB Continuum offered at Fridley Public Schools.

Topics ranged from creating a vegan cookbook, learning how to quilt, exploring the effects of regret, putting together care packages for the homeless, making bread, and more!

1. Aidan Salo and his IB MYP Personal Project - *Building a Trebuchet*.
2. Jason Nguyen (pictured back) shows classmates his IB MYP Personal Project - *Building a Computer*
3. Michael Ude and his IB MYP Personal Project - *Learning to Type*
4. Ahmed Al Juaifari and his IB MYP Personal Project - *Babylon History*
5. Marwa Mohammed and her IB MYP Personal Project - *Mathematical and Scientific Discoveries of the Old Islamic World*
6. Brianna Yang and her IB MYP Personal Project *Regrets and Why* and Fridley High School principal Patty Hand

Fridley High School students attend Latino Engineering Academic Day



Fridley High School students took full advantage of the opportunity to learn more about STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) careers at the Minnesota State University - Mankato (MSU) Latino Engineering Academic Day. Over 20 FHS students attended the day-long conference on November 2, 2018. The main mission of Latino Engineering Academic Day is to encourage and motivate Latino high school students to pursue their STEM interests in higher education and careers.

The conference connected Fridley students with Latino professionals in various engineering fields, as well as current MSU engineering students and faculty. Additionally, students had the opportunity to learn more about the steps to take to prepare for college through academic sessions. Students toured the MSU campus and learned about the various engineering programs that the institution offers. The conference also provided students with multiple hands-on demonstrations and interactive activities.



Fridley Middle School teams with U of M to inspire students

A group of 65 excited Fridley Middle School (FMS) 7th and 8th graders ran onto the field of TCF Bank Stadium on December 7, 2018 after a pep talk by none other than University of Minnesota (U of M) quarterback Seth Green (*pictured above*). The moment was part of the Gopher Experience, a program that invites middle school students to campus to learn from U of M student athletes. The experience allowed FMS students the chance to connect with collegiate athletes and hear what it takes to become a Division I athlete and the hard work required for success in the classroom.



FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

PRESENT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROJECTS

Fridley Middle School (FMS) 8th grade students presented their National History Day competition projects on February 13, 2019. This year's theme was "Triumph and Tragedy in History," focusing on a triumph (a victory or notable success), or a tragedy (a disastrous event). This interdisciplinary project allows students to explore their own interests and creatively present research through an individually selected format of an exhibit, documentary, research paper, performance or website. The History Day project also allows students to put their Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills of self-management, communication, research skills, social skills and critical thinking skills, into practice. ATL skills empower students to succeed in meeting challenging objectives of assessment projects, as well as prepare them for future success as they pursue rigorous the IB Diploma Programme or IB Career-related Programme at Fridley High School, and beyond.



Fridley Middle School 8th grade student Mirkeni Ahmed presents her History Day project - *The Kent State Massacre*

The History Day project encourages curiosity about world issues and fosters international-mindedness," said FMS Individuals and Societies teacher Aaron Cuthbert. "Students learn valuable inquiry and research skills that will help them formulate effective research questions and synthesize ideas into an argument."

"The History Day project encourages curiosity about world issues and fosters international-mindedness," said FMS Individuals and Societies teacher Aaron Cuthbert. "Students learn valuable inquiry and research skills that will help them formulate effective research questions and synthesize ideas into an argument."

The grade-level wide showcase on February 13 allowed students to practice their communication and social skills as they presented their research to volunteer judges.

FMS BUILDERS CLUB, STUDENT COUNCIL PARTICIPATE IN NIGHT OF SERVICE



Always willing to lend a helping hand, 30 students from the Fridley Middle School (FMS) Builders Club and Student Council participated in a Night of Service on January 24, 2019. To help out their own school, the students worked with their grade-level classmates to clean their teachers' classrooms. Students also participated in activities to assist those in the Fridley community. This year, the Builders Club and Student Council partnered with the Simpson Housing Services - Bell House. The organization helps thousands of people who are homeless to find housing, support and shelter. Students put together sandwiches and 20 tie-fleece blankets to donate to the shelter.

STEVENSON STUDENTS
PARTICIPATE IN AN

HOUR OF CODE

Stevenson Elementary students practiced their coding skills during Hour of Code on December 3-7, 2018. Hour of Code, created by nonprofit Code.org, is a worldwide program designed to introduce students to computer science and show that coding is accessible to everyone. Celebrated nationally during the annual Computer Science Education Week, Stevenson students have been participating in the initiative for four years.



FHS African American Student Union presents at Black History Month event



The Fridley High School (FHS) African American Student Union (AASU) presented at the 4th annual Cities United Black History Month event on February 22, 2019 at North Hennepin Community College. Their topic, *“Connecting Cultures Through Diversity,”* focused on establishing deeper understanding of the cultural background of oneself and others. Students explained that making these connections can widen perspectives, limit misconceptions and prejudice, and help society find commonality and mutual understanding.

The Fridley AASU led three breakout sessions on the topic, presenting to over 300 students, community members, and local education and government leaders. They also spoke about how communities can build culture and diversity by providing opportunities for community members to form new connections, facilitate discussions, and promote inclusivity and openness. Through these processes, people can start to realize and acknowledge their similarities as much as their differences.

Celebrated in February, the annual Black History Month event is hosted in collaboration with the City of Brooklyn Park's Cities United Program, National Forum for Black Public Administrators and My Brother's Keeper - Brooklyn Park. The event also featured performances from local artists, a networking luncheon, sessions on uniting leaders for change and more.



“We wanted to speak about something that means a lot to us. It’s important to understand different cultures, as well as your own. Forming this mutual understanding is a way to build unity within communities. Even though we all walk different lives, we want to teach and encourage others to find connections.”

Jamia Johnson,
FHS senior and AASU Vice President

“AASU is a safe space where I feel comfortable and supported. I’ve been able to find my voice. It’s been a real journey for me to start to speak up about issues that matter to me.”

Safia Hussein
FHS senior and AASU President



Hayes and Stevenson students present at LEGO League Jr. Competition

Hayes and Stevenson Elementary students presented their LEGO League projects, as part of the “Mission Moon” challenge, on February 23, 2019 at Washington Technical Secondary in St. Paul. LEGO League Jr. is part of the FIRST Robotics program. The segment was created for elementary school students and is designed to introduce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). Hayes and Stevenson students have been working on “Mission Moon” during their after-school LEGO League Jr. club.

“Mission Moon,” focuses on surviving in outer space. Each week, students brainstormed solutions to different questions around energy, air, water and other resources. To address those problems, students built a moon base and coded several LEGO-themed robots. Hayes students built and coded a sensor-driven moon rover and Stevenson students built and coded a LEGO rocket ship. Competing against 28 teams from around the metro area, the students presented their models and display boards to a panel of judges. Students were asked about their moon base, what they’ve learned, and the process they took to get to the final product.



The Stevenson LEGO League Jr. team



The Hayes Elementary LEGO League Jr. team present to judges at the LEGO League Jr. Competition on February 23.

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TEACH AT

Spanish Day at the MN Zoo

Fridley High School (FHS) students received a unique opportunity to teach others using their Spanish language skills on February 13, 2019. Twenty-five of the school's students studying in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) Level 5 and 6 Spanish class took part in Spanish Day at the Minnesota Zoo, which featured students presenting to visitors in the Spanish language.



To prepare for the event, the students formed five presentation teams. Each team researched their assigned topic, which was either an animal or place, then wrote a script and practiced in front of classmates. The students were not allowed to speak any English during their presentation. As visitors asked questions at the end, students answered only in Spanish.

Emily Latzka, Spanish instructor at the high school, noted the multiple educational opportunities at play for the students.

"Every presentation from Fridley had an element of educating others on the importance of protecting endangered animals and protecting our natural resources," Latzka said. "The kids were creative and made their presentations interactive. For example, the ring-tailed lemur group even made a game for visitors to play called 'pin the tail on the lemur.'"

Latzka spoke of how meaningful events like these are for students learning a second language. "This opportunity allowed for DP Spanish students to put their language speaking research and skills into action outside of the classroom and in the public," she said.

Fridley Middle School students enjoy Black History Month exhibit



FMS 5th grade students (from l to r): Jayar Lai, Ayan Adow, Aliya Abdulkadir, and Edwina George

A freedom quilt, cultural artifacts, African drums and instruments and many other items and materials were on display at the Fridley Middle School (FMS) Black History Month exhibit. The exhibit, which was located in the school's Student Support Services office, was available throughout February.

According to family and cultural liaison Aloda Sims, who organized the exhibit, students were able to connect and relate to the stories expressed through the items and artifacts featured in the exhibit.

"We wanted to provide an exhibit to show different cultures and the powerful stories, many of which our students can relate to," said Sims. "There are many significant historical events and leaders who have paved the way for generations. This exhibit is a way to showcase those stories. We want to show students how education can help you leave a legacy and allow you to shape the world today."

Sims added that the exhibit was a way for students to see a reflection of themselves. Students were excited to see various items, like artifacts, spices, jewelry and toys, that they recognized - items that they've seen at their parents' and grandparents' homes.

The items were collected from Fridley Public Schools staff members, as well as the Northwest Suburban Integration School District Multipurpose Center.



FHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN TRI-METRO ALL CONFERENCE HONORS FESTIVAL



Fridley High School choir, band and arts students participated in the Tri-Metro All Conference Honors Festival on January 18, 2019 at St. Anthony High School. This fine arts festival is held to honor high achieving high school artists. The 20 Fridley students enjoyed a day of intense rehearsals and musical workshops with high caliber fine arts clinicians.

The Tri-Metro All Conference Fine Arts selection students were:

Band: Tyler Herder, Adam Johnson, Katie Kruc, Logan Krueger, Lucy Kuempel, Hailee Schalwig, Anabelle Wuertz, Olivia Yang, Audrey Zeleny; **Choir:** Camryn Fagan, Sheilla Nyambane, Tavian Walker Shelby, Julian Kingbird, Adrian Cortes Hernandez, Carter Rettke, Walter Nordin; **Visual Arts:** Amy Stuge, Yashminie Seriram, Leanna Schultz, Olivia Olivera

FRIDLEY ALC RECOGNIZES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AT CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Sixteen students at Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC) were honored for their hard work and accomplishments at the Celebration of Excellence held February 1, 2019. In addition, one student, Jakob Peets, received special recognition for his graduation from Fridley Public Schools.

The event's theme centered on community, which highlighted the building of positive relationships among students, staff and the surrounding community. At the celebration, students were given awards from their teachers in recognition of their work and progress. The awards given to students included recognition for academic excellence, attendance, most improved and the 3D Award (Desire, Determination, and Discipline). Students of Tiger Streak, an ALC Leadership Group, also recognized their teachers with awards.



From left to right: Fridley ALC students Brandon Millard, Alicia Cervantes, Nyara Woody, Yasharahla Ross

The Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center serves north metro area students between the ages of 16 to 21 years old. The program helps students earn a high school diploma by featuring small classes, individual learning plans, flexible schedules, and independent studies.



Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel and Fridley Class of 2019 graduate Jakob Peets

FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

advanced to Music Listening Contest (MLC) Championship

Congratulations to Fridley High School students (Pictured below, from left to right) Isabelle Olivera, Adam Johnson and Elliot Carlson, who earned 2nd place in the Music Listening Contest (MLC) regional competition on January 18, 2019. The Fridley High School team competed against more than 120 teams from 47 high schools, private music schools and home schools across Minnesota.

The MLC is a music history competition covering classical music, global perspectives and a variety of musical influences. The competition is part of the music history and theory curriculum in Fridley High School's International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Prior to the competition, students practice and develop skills in active listening and critical analysis by learning to identify composers, cultures, periods and styles.



FRIDLEY STAFF



FMS teacher named KS95 Teacher of the Week

Congratulations to Fridley Middle School teacher Rachel Cathey, who was named KS95 Teacher of the Week! KS95 is a local radio station serving the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. KS95 Radio Personality Rudy visited Cathey's choir class on February 11, 2019 to award her an "Excellence Award" plaque, as well as a plaque for Fridley Middle School.

Ms. Cathey teaches Visual Arts, Choir and Theatre Courses at FMS. She also runs a choir support class and theatre improv class that are open to 7th and 8th grade students. After school, you can find Ms. Cathey running the FMS Theater Program - directing, choreographing, making props and promoting the seasonal productions.

Fridley Public Schools welcomes new Director of Finance and Operations

Fridley Public Schools welcomed Todd Tillung, new Director of Finance and Operations, to the administrative team in February 2019. Tillung comes to the district with over 12 years in financial management leadership roles. He oversees the finance, transportation, buildings and grounds, and nutritional services departments in the district.

Prior to his new role at Fridley, Tillung worked as the Senior Finance Manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which provides service to communities around the nation that are impacted by disasters. His recent work led financial support of relief operations in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico in response to the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. He also led federal financial oversight in disaster recovery operations in Flint, Michigan and South Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

Tillung first began his career in financial management in the United States Air Force. Following over 20 years of military service, he worked in financial leadership roles at IBM and the U.S. Department of Defense.

One of Tillung's most notable military accomplishments was being selected as the U.S. Air Force Senior Financial Management NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) of the Year in 2003. He earned this annual award based on his leadership efforts at Osan Air Base in South Korea where he also served as a First Sergeant. Tillung worked to create a tiger team that deployed a new case management system to facilitate the processing of personnel and military pay case resolution. The revised system was benchmarked and deployed at all bases across the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters. He also improved processes that led to increased accuracy rates, reduced processing time and ensured all military members were receiving their rightful earnings.

More recently while working for FEMA, Tillung created a new process within the financial management directorate Field Base Operations division that enabled the organization



Todd Tillung

to accurately capture costs associated with the movement of commodities that FEMA provides to the states.

According to Tillung, working at Fridley Public Schools is an excellent opportunity to continue his career in service.

"My career has always been about serving others, and working for Fridley Public Schools has allowed me to continue that by providing service to students," Tillung said.

"So when students enter the Fridley school system from preschool until they walk across the stage to graduate, we know that we create an environment that allows them to thrive and excel so they can continue that success post-high school."

Tillung added that his goal is to ensure that all decisions are made with a student-centered focus.

"The benefit of our students will always be our top priority," he said.

He has hit the ground running since beginning with Fridley Public Schools at the beginning of February. Tillung's first goal was to understand the depth of the Fridley community, its schools, and the connections that make all departments work together.

"In alignment with our Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel's vision, we have the potential to create any optimizations needed in the organization," said Tillung. "We will operate as efficiently as possible and maximize our tax payers' dollars to benefit all Fridley students and their future success."

Tillung earned his Bachelor's Degree in business administration with a financial management focus from Walden University. He is currently working toward his MBA from Grand Canyon University.

He and his wife Wendi reside in Rogers and have five adult children: Samantha, David, Michael, Trevor and Gabrielle. In his free time, he likes to enjoy nature and activities on the lake.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SUPERINTENDENT, FHS STUDENTS VOLUNTEER FOR BELL RINGING

Fridley Public Schools Superintendent and Fridley High School students participating in the STRIVE program, pitched in to help fill the Salvation Army red kettles at the Fridley Sam's Club on December 12, 2018. The group spread some holiday cheer with smiles and holiday greetings while ringing the bell to encourage donations.

STRIVE is a scholarship program that is sponsored by the Columbia Heights-Fridley Rotary Club. It helps high school students discover their own strengths and talents to increase their personal and academic achievement.



Fridley Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel with Fridley High School students and STRIVE program participants Kevin Huynh (left) and Yashminie Seriram (right) ringing the Salvation Army bell at Sam's Club on Dec. 12.

FRIDLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

enjoy Shop with a Cop



Hayes and Stevenson Elementary students got their Christmas shopping done on December 4, 2018 with some new friends, members of the Fridley Police Department (FPD) at the annual 'Shop with a Cop' event. Fifteen students were partnered with an officer or FPD Police Explorer - a young adult or student who is working hands-on with officers to explore a career in law enforcement. The students shopped with officers in the Fridley Walmart store, thoughtfully selecting gifts for family members and themselves with \$75 gift cards donated by the store.

Generations connect through Fridley Community Education programs



Quilter Karen Paulsen looks over as Fridley Preschool students Griffin and Myriam place fabric pieces together to resemble a quilt.

An intergenerational event, Fridley Preschool students visited with seniors of the quilting group at the Fridley Community Center on December 14, 2018. The building is shared by the Fridley Community Education Senior Program, Fridley Preschool, Early Childhood Family Education classes, and more.

The seniors volunteered to provide activities for students to enjoy - from piecing together patterns to learning how sewing works. Fridley Public Schools Community Education strives to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all ages. These opportunities strengthen the valuable bond among generations that make up our community.



From left to right, Fridley Preschool students Griffin, Kaffrey, Willow and Myriam watch as quilter Linda Oslund shows them how she threads a needle.



Stevenson Elementary celebrates National African American Parent Involvement Day

In celebration of National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID), Stevenson Elementary students had the chance to share their school experience with their parents on February 11, 2019.

Parents had the opportunity to meet teachers, staff and administrators, and visit their child's classrooms for a portion of the day. They also enjoyed a presentation put together by the students and Hope Laroche, Stevenson's family and cultural liaison. Students recited poems and quotes by famous African American leaders or those they wrote themselves.

According to Laroche, NAAPID is important in reinforcing the value of parental involvement. "When parents or guardians and schools work together to promote academic achievement, children succeed at higher rates," said Laroche. "We want to provide as many opportunities as possible where we can all work together so all students can achieve to the best of their potential."

Laroche added that she was proud of the students for presenting to the crowd with such poise and confidence.

"We were thrilled that so many parents and guardians were able to join us in celebrating this day," said Laroche. "We're so glad we can provide a welcoming environment for both students and parents so our school can provide a path to success for all students."



ALC STUDENTS VISIT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, GAIN OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PART OF SOLUTION

A team of seven students from the Area Learning Center (ALC) made the most of an opportunity to help eliminate student hunger on February 6, 2019. As part of a visit to The Sheridan Story, the Fridley students filled over 650 bags of food that will go in weekend backpacks of students facing hunger in the Twin Cities.



The Sheridan Story is a non-profit organization located in Roseville, Minnesota, that serves over 5,400 students in 144 schools throughout the Metro area.

This school year, the ALC introduced four new three-week classes in its English program: World Hunger, US Hunger, Local Hunger, and Hunger and Science. The classes include field trips to visit humanitarian organizations, such as The Sheridan Story and Feed My Starving Children, where students can learn more about nonprofit organizations, tour the facilities, and learn about the various efforts that provide sustainable solutions. In addition, the students take part in volunteer activities to support the mission of the respective groups.

FMS 6TH GRADERS MAKE SCARVES FOR THOSE IN NEED

Volunteering their time and talents, 25 Fridley Middle School students created 35 no-sew scarves on November 20, 2018 which were given to St. Philip's Church Clothing and Food Shelf in Fridley. The scarves were distributed to those in need throughout the winter. Service as action is an integral part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes. Students are taught and encouraged to develop a civic responsibility through kind acts and volunteering.





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*Pictured below:
Fridley Community Education
Director Stephen Keeler,
FPS Superintendent Dr. Kim
Hiel, and Senior Program
Coordinator Maggie Chandler*

Fridley Senior Program enjoys

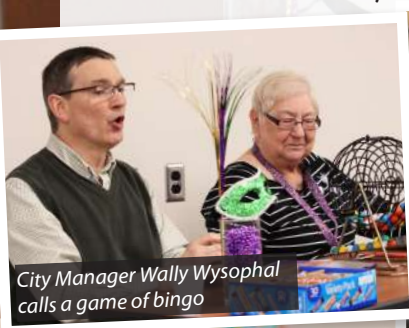
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Over 65 seniors enjoyed the annual Mardi Gras celebration on March 5, 2019 hosted by the Fridley Community Education Senior Program. Attendees spent the afternoon playing bingo and blackjack with Fridley Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel and City of Fridley Mayor Scott Lund, City Manager Wally Wysopal, Police Chief Brian Weierke, Fridley City Council members Steve Eggert and Bob Barnette, as well as Kris Moren from the Anoka County Community Action Program. The Fridley American Legion and Friends of the Fridley Senior Foundation donated prizes, snacks and decor.

"Thank you to the group of volunteers and organizations who contributed and helped to make this event happen," said Senior Program Coordinator Maggie Chandler. "I'm so glad we could provide a celebration to lift everyone's spirits - it was much needed in the midst of this cold weather. We are thankful to have such a wonderful community!"



*City of Fridley Mayor Scott Lund
deals a game of blackjack*



*City Manager Wally Wysopal
calls a game of bingo*



*FPS Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel calls
a game of bingo with Senior Program
Volunteer Irene Kangas.*



FRIDLEY
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Lifelong Learning. Opportunities for All Ages